

Bill title: Proud to Be an American Citizen Act

Bill number: [H.R. 2363](#)

Date introduced: May 12, 2009

Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary

Summary: For many new U.S. citizens, the official Citizenship and Immigration Services citizenship swearing-in ceremony is the culmination of a long, arduous, bureaucratic process in obtaining citizenship.

CIS reports that more than 28,000 new citizens will be sworn in at 133 citizenship ceremonies around the country. The Proud to Be an American Citizen Act provides authorization for Citizenship and Immigration Services to support community citizenship swearing-in ceremonies. A similar provision was enacted into law in the 1996 immigration reform bill, but has since expired.

The legislation would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make funds available to support public ceremonies for administering oaths of allegiance. Ceremonies should be held on or near Independence Day and should include ceremonial and celebratory activities. Sites should be chosen with consideration to the proximity of the individuals being sworn in and the degree of participation and support for the ceremony by the local community.